

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

INFO ALL EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

USDEL JEC PARIS

TREASURY

CINCPAC

USSAGE NKP

COGARD

XMT AMEMBASSY SUVA

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

UNCLAS STATE 188114

COGARD FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, XC, US

SUBJECT: AUGUST 27 EA PRESS SUMMARY

INDOCHINA

1. SAIGON COMMAND REPORTED TUESDAY THAT GOVT TROOPS HAVE
DRIVEN BACK TWO-PRONGED COMMUNIST ATTACK NEAR TAY
NINH. SAID 18 ENEMY KIA MONDAY SW AND SE OF TAY NINH,
WITH GOVT CASUALTIES SEVEN KIA, 15 WOUNDED (REUTER SAIGON).

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GVN SENDS ICCS FORMAL PROTEST ACCUSING NVN AND VC
OF STEPPING UP MIL OPERATIONS "IN UTTER CONTEMPT OF
WORLD PUBLIC OPINION." COMPLAINT CITED COMMUNIST
CAPTURE IN LAST THREE WEEKS OF MINH LONG, THUONG
DUC AND MANG BUK (AP, NYT).

TWENTY-YEAR-OLD ONE-LEGGED SVN VET BURNED HIMSELF TO DEATH MONDAY IN PARK FACING PRESIDENTIAL PALACE IN SAIGON; SECOND TO DO SO, ACCORDING TO SAIGON MEDIA, AS TESTIMONY TO ANTI-COMMUNIST STRUGGLE FOR PEACE (WP; AP, PHINQ).

2. GKR MIL SAYS FANK LAUNCHED NEW OPERATION AGAINST INSURGENTS 140 MI. NW OF PP IN ATTEMPT TO RECAPTURE SOME OF ANGKOR TEMPLE RUINS (AP, NYT).

3. LAOTIAN JOINT PEACE COMMITTEE AGREED TUESDAY ON FOUR SITES FOR FIRST EXCHANGE OF POWS BETWEEN PL AND VIENTIANE SIDE SEPT. 12 -- PAK OU AND PDJ IN NORTH, AND ROUTES 25 AND 9 IN SOUTH. VIENTIANE SPOKESMAN SAYS HIS DELEGATION AGREED TO RELEASE 180 SOLDIERS AND CIVILIANS, MOST N. VIETNAMESE, IN PDJ, BUT HE DECLINED TO DISCLOSE NUMBER DUE TO BE FREED AT OTHER SITES OR NUMBER AWAITING RELEASE BY PL (REUTER VIENTIANE).

SOUVANNA PHOUMA ARRIVED IN PARIS MONDAY FOR TREATMENT FOR HEART AILMENT (WP). IS EXPECTED TO STAY IN PARIS CLINIC FOR WEEK, THEN TO S. FRANCE FOR MONTH'S REST (AP, CHITRIB).

KOREA

4. THOUSANDS TOOK PART IN ANTI-JAPANESE DEMONSTRATIONS FOR SEVENTH CONSECUTIVE DAY MONDAY WHILE LAWMAKERS DEMANDED STRONG DIPLOMATIC ACTION AGAINST JAPAN IN CONNECTION WITH AUG. 15 ASSASSINATION.

REUTER SEOUL REPORTS KIM YOUNG-SAM, NEW LEADER OF NDP, CALLED TUESDAY FOR CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO ENSURE RESTORATION OF DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM. AT PRESS UNCLASSIFIED

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CONFERENCE, KIM ALSO URGED GOVT DISBAND KCIA, RELEASE POLITICAL PRISONERS, AND ALLOW KIM TAE-CHUNG "FREEDOM OF POLITICAL ACTIVITIES AND FREEDOM OF TRAVEL ABROAD."

CHINA

5. TERHORST ANNOUNCED MONDAY THAT 7-MEMBER CODEL WILL DEPART FOR TWO-WEEK PRC TOUR BEGINNING SEPT. 2. GROUP TO BE HEADED BY FULBRIGHT, WITH FRELINGHUYSEN AS DEPUTY; OTHERS: HUMPHREY, FONG, ZABLOCKI, BROOMFIELD AND MS. JORDAN. ASKED ABOUT FORD TRIP TO CHINA, SPOKESMAN SAID PRES. HAS NO PRESENT PLANS, BUT "WHEN HE DOES, WE'LL LET YOU KNOW" (AP, WP; NYT).

6. NYT'S MCELHENY REPORTS NAS ANNOUNCEMENT THAT LEADING SCIENTIFIC ARCHITECTS OF "GREEN REVOLUTION" IN AGRICULTURE ARE AMONG DELEGATION OF 10 US PLANT RESEARCHERS AND TWO OTHER AMERICANS ENTERING CANTON TUESDAY FOR TWICE-POSTPONED, 4-WEEK CHINA VISIT. DELEGATION OF 9 PRC AGRICULTURISTS WILL SPEND MONTH VISITING CENTERS OF RESEARCH ON WHEAT, COTTON, CORN AND SOYBEANS IN SIX SOUTHERN AND MIDWESTERN STATES. PRC DELEGATION HEADED BY DIRECTOR OF CHINESE SOCIETY OF AGRONOMY, AND ONE DELEGATE IS LISTED AS AGRICULTURAL COMMUNE MEMBER. NAS ADDED THAT LATER THIS FALL, US DELEGATIONS INTERESTED IN LINGUISTICS AND EARTHQUAKES ARE SCHEDULED TO VISIT CHINA AND PRC DELEGATIONS INTERESTED IN PHARMACOLOGY AND PHOTOSYNTHESIS IN PLANTS ARE TO VISIT US.

AMERICAN PLANT SCIENTISTS VISITING CHINA INCLUDE 1970 NOBEL PEACE PRIZE WINNER DR. NORMAN BORLAUG, AND THEY ARE FIRST OF 9 US GROUPS GOING TO PRC UNDER LITTLE-HERALDED AGREEMENT WORKED OUT BETWEEN US AND CHINESE SCHOLARS IN CHINA IN JUNE, 1973. DELEGATION REPRESENTING COMMITTEE ON SCHOLARLY COMMUNICATION WITH PRC MADE ARRANGEMENTS FOR FURTHER EXCHANGES LAST

YEAR. ALTHOUGH PLANT SCIENTISTS' VISIT WAS REQUESTED BY AMERICANS, ITS APPROVAL IS REGARDED AS FURTHER UNCLASSIFIED

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SIGN THAT PRC WANTS TO STEP UP ADOPTION OF "GREEN REVOLUTION" TECHNOLOGIES. IN INTERVIEW, DR. HARRISON BROWN, FORMER NAS FOREIGN SECRETARY, SAYS MAIN PURPOSE OF VISIT "IS TO OPEN THE WAY FOR EXCHANGES OF PLANT MATERIALS. WE'RE ALWAYS ON THE LOOKOUT FOR GENETIC MATERIAL FROM OTHER PLACES."

7. IN SHARP NEW IDEOLOGICAL ATTACK ON PEKING, IZVESTIA CHARGES PRC HAS SWERVED SHARPLY TO RIGHT AND IS IN STRIKING UNANIMITY" WITH BOURGEOIS OPPONENTS OF COMMUNISM. WHILE COMMENTARY SAID LITTLE NEW, ARTICLE, WHICH FOLLOWED RETURN OF SOVIET BORDER NEGOTIATOR FROM STALLED TALKS, INDICATED ANEW DEPTHS OF HOSTILITY TOWARD CHINA LEADERSHIP; AND BY CHALLENGING THEIR AUTHORITY TO GOVERN PRC, IZVESTIA SEEMED TO ADVANCE USSR CONTENTION THAT MOSCOW ALONE IS FIT FOR WORLD COMMUNIST MOVEMENT LEADERSHIP, SAYS NYT SPECIAL FROM MOSCOW.

8. REUTER'S PEARCE, AT CHOUKOUTIEN, REPORTS PREPARATIONS UNDER WAY TO REOPEN EXCAVATIONS IN VILLAGE WHERE 500,000-YEAR-OLD BONES OF PEKING MAN WERE FIRST DISCOVERED HALF CENTURY AGO.

IN 1941, SEVERAL CRATES OF RELICS FROM SITE WERE
LOADED ON TRAIN FROM PEKING TO TIENSTIN, UNDER
PROTECTION OF US MARINES, FOR REMOVAL TO SAFER PLACE.
JAPANESE TROOPS SEIZED TRAIN, PASSENGERS WERE INTERNED
AND IN ENSUING CONFUSION CRATES WERE LOST.
SPASMODIC INVESTIGATIONS HAVE CONTINUED SINCE THEN,
PRODUCING VARIETY OF THEORIES AS TO FATE OF RELICS.
PALEONTOLOGIST AT SITE IS WELL AWARE OF THESE
THEORIES, "AND WOULD NATURALLY" LIKE BONES FOUND
AND RETURNED TO PRC; HIS VIEW IS THAT PROBLEM COULD
BEST BE SOLVED BY JOINT INVESTIGATION BY ALL THREE
COUNTRIES INVOLVED.
9. SUN AND NYDN CARRY PHOTOS OF PRESIDENT FORD ACCEPTING

SOUVENIR BASEBALL AND PENNANT FROM TAIWAN LITTLE
LEAGUE BASEBALL TEAM'S WINNING PITCHER AT WH MONDAY.

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JAPAN

10. REUTER REPORTS SPEECH BY CABINET CHIEF SUSUMU NIKAI DO
IN CHICAGO CALLING FOR US AND JAPAN TO TAKE FORCEFUL
STEPS TO PREVENT COUNTRIES FROM RESORTING TO

NATIONALISTIC, PROTECTIONIST MEASURES TO SEE THEMSELVES
THROUGH PRESENT ECONOMIC SITUATION. CALLED FOR
GREATER WORLD TRADE INTERDEPENDENCE AND PASSAGE OF
US TRADE BILL, WHILE PROMISING JAPAN WOULD TAKE NO
ARTIFICIAL MEASURES TO PROMOTE EXPORTS (8/26).

WSJ'S MALABRE REPORTS JAPAN AMONG SEVERAL COUNTRIES
EASING CONTROLS IN EFFORT TO SPUR ECONOMIC ACTIVITY.
DESPITE FEARS THAT EASING MAY NOT COME IN TIME TO
AVERT INTERNATIONAL RECESSION, OECD IS PREDICTING
7.5 PER CENT REAL ANNUAL GROWTH FOR JAPAN BETWEEN
NOW AND FIRST QUARTER NEXT YEAR.

11. TYPHOON MARY, 14TH STORM OF SEASON, BELTED JAPAN'S
EAST COAST WITH SQUALLS AND DRENCHED CENTRAL MOUNTAINS
(UPI, BAL T N-A 8/26).

PHILIPPINES

12. DEFENSE DEPT. SAYS ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF JESUIT SCHOOL
AND STUDENT HAVE BEEN CHARGED WITH REBELLION AND
CONSPIRACY. THE TWO WERE AMONG 21 ARRESTED DURING
HELICOPTER RAID BY 150 SOLDIERS ON SACRED HEART
NOVITIATE IN MANILA SUBURB. REV. JOSE BLANCO CHARGED
WITH BEING SECRETARY GENERAL OF ANTI-GOVT GROUP,
WHILE STUDENT JOSE ALTO SAID TO BE "SUSPECTED LEADER

OF A DISSIDENT LIQUIDATION SQUAD" (AP, CHITRIB; WP).
PHIL DEFENSE DEPT SAYS IT HAS OVERWHELMING EVIDENCE
BLANCO INVOLVED IN CONSPIRACY TO OVERTHROW GOVT. AT
SAME TIME, GOVT HAS SCHEDULED CONFERENCE WITH RC
LEADERS TO DISCUSS CASE (NYT).

THAILAND

13. WP'S BURGESS SAYS BANGKOK STUDENTS FEAR ASSASSINATION
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OF 37-YEAR-OLD ACTIVIST STUDENT LEADER SAENG
RUNGNIRANDORNKUL COULD BE FIRST IN SERIES OF POLITICAL
KILLINGS AIMED AT INTIMIDATING STUDENT MOVEMENT.
OCCURRENCE OF OTHER MURDERS, NOT SO CLEARLY POLITICALLY
MOTIVATED AS SAENG'S, HAVE CONVINCED MANY STUDENTS
OF CONSPIRACY; MANY CHARGE CIA WITH RESPONSIBILITY,
WHILE OTHERS ACCUSE CONSERVATIVE THAI POLITICAL FIGURES.
MANY THAIS SEE MURDER AS FURTHER EXAMPLE OF BREAKDOWN
OF LAW AND ORDER ALREADY EVIDENCED BY WAVE OF ILLEGAL
STRIKES AND STREET BATTLES BY STUDENTS.

WORLD POPULATION CONFERENCE

14. AP BUCHAREST REPORTS CONFERENCE MAY WIND UP ADOPTING
PLAN OF ACTION WITH REFERENCES TO NUMERICAL GOALS

FOR POPULATION CONTROL DELETED. OPPOSITION TO
POPULATION RESTRICTIONS COMES FROM CHINA AND SEVERAL
THIRD WORLD STATES. HOWEVER, INDONESIAN DELEGATE,
AMONG OTHERS FROM DEVELOPING NATIONS, CALLED FOR BALANCE
IN EMPHASIS BETWEEN NEED FOR DEVELOPMENT AND FOR
POPULATION GROWTH RESTRICTIONS (WSJ).

LOS

15. WSJ'S NEWMAN CONCLUDES THAT ONLY REAL DECISION
REACHED AT LOS CONFERENCE IS TO MEET AGAIN IN 1975,
PROBABLY FOR TWO LONG SESSIONS IN GENEVA AND CARACAS,
INSTEAD OF VIENNA AS SCHEDULED.

COMMENT AND ANALYSIS

INDOCHINA

16. S-N'S ARBUCKLE (AUG 26) IN SAIGON SAYS CONGRESSIONAL
CUTS IN MIL EXPENDITURES FOR SVN, PLUS INDICATIONS
OF GENERAL COMMUNIST OFFENSIVE, PERHAPS WITHIN NEXT
NINE MONTHS, CAUSING APPREHENSION AMONG SVN OFFICIALS
AND WESTERN DIPLOMATS. QUOTES "HIGH-RANKING" GVN
OFFICIAL THAT "WHEN THE AMERICANS WENT OUT OF VIETNAM,
WE KNEW WE WOULD GET LESS, MUCH LESS THAN THE AMERICAN

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ARMY HAD, BUT WE WERE TOLD WE WOULD GET ENOUGH TO KEEP FIGHTING AND SUCCESSFULLY DEFEND OURSELVES. BUT THE AMOUNT NOW IS BELOW THAT EXPECTATION AND BELOW OUR NEED, ESPECIALLY IF THERE IS A BIG OFFENSIVE, AND WE THINK THERE WILL BE ONE." ALSO CITES SOURCES LISTING INDICATIONS THAT AN OFFENSIVE IS ON THE WAY, MOST LIKELY BETWEEN END OF '74 AND APRIL OF '75. ASIDE FROM HIGH STATE OF NVN MIL PREPAREDNESS, REASON POLITICAL ANALYSTS EXPECT HANOI OFFENSIVE IS COMMUNISTS' POLITICAL FAILURE. SOURCES SAY THE RESPONSE TO VC RECRUITING EFFORTS IN SVN HAS BEEN POOR - THE RESULT OF LONG WAR BY WHICH MOST OF THE POPULATION LEARNED WHAT COMMUNIST LIFE-STYLE MEANS - AND N VIETS PROBABLY FEEL THEY HAVE GOT TO GO MILITARY NOW, BECAUSE THEY ARE GETTING NOWHERE POLITICALLY.

ARBUCKLE REPORTS GENERAL BELIEF THAT THE SOUTH WILL SURVIVE CRISIS; THAT THE SOLE RESULT OF THE POTENTIAL OFFENSIVE WILL BE TREMENDOUS LOSS OF LIFE AND VN PROBLEM WILL REMAIN UNSOLVED. NOTES THAT FOR SEVERAL WEEKS NOW, COMMUNISTS HAVE ENGAGED IN "STRATEGIC RAIDS" - LARGE-SCALE ACTIONS THROUGHOUT SVN TO SPREAD ARVN FORCES TO THEIR UTMOST, CAUSING DISRUPTIONS OF SOUTH'S ECONOMY, SURROUNDING AND HITTING DISTRICT CAPITALS. S VIETS HAVE SUFFERED DEFEATS BUT THEY HAVE BOUNCED BACK, RETAKING OR FORCING STANDOFF WHERE NEITHER SIDE CAN RETAIN CONTESTED TERRAIN. CUTBACKS IN US FUNDS BEING MET BY LONG OVERDUE BELT-TIGHTENING IN AMMO USE AND BY INTRODUCING NEW, LESS COSTLY TACTICS.

17. NYT'S SCHANBERG IN PP OBSERVES KHMER INSURGENTS SPURNING GKR OFFERS TO NEGOTIATE PEACE. NOTES IT IS INSURGENTS' PUBLIC STANCE THAT IF WASHINGTON ENDS SUPPORT OF LON NOL AND PULLS OUT, ENTIRE PROBLEM WOULD BE RESOLVED - WHICH MEANS, ACCORDING SCHANBERG, THAT GKR WOULD SUCCUMB. SCHANBERG ALSO SEES NO SIGN OF INSURGENTS HAVING ANY LESS RIGID PRIVATE STANCE, NOR ANY INDICATION THAT INSURGENTS' CHINESE AND NVN SPONSORS ARE ABOUT TO REDUCE THEIR SUPPORT SIGNIFICANTLY AS CONSEQUENCE OF SUPERPOWER DETENTE.

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NOTES THAT US HAS APPARENTLY SHIED AWAY FROM ACTUAL INVOLVEMENT IN GETTING NEGOTIATIONS UNDER WAY, BUT CITES AUTHORITATIVE SOURCES THAT AMB. DEAN RECOMMENDED TO DOS THAT ATTEMPT BE MADE TO CONTACT KHIEU SAMPHAN AND FEEL OUT HIS POSITION WHILE ON

LENGTHY TOUR OF EE AND AFRICA FEW MONTHS AGO.
IDEA WAS VETOED BY HAK, ACCORDING SOURCES, BECAUSE
HE FELT MOVE WAS ILL-TIMED SINCE GKR WAS DOING
BADLY ON BATTLEFIELD.

SCHANBERG ASSERTS THAT GKR PEACE TALK PROPOSALS -
WHICH WERE STAGE-MANAGED BY AMERICANS - HAVE OTHER
PURPOSES. SAYS OFFERS WERE TIMED TO DEBATE IN
US CONGRESS OVER AID AND TO GKR'S ANNUAL CAMPAIGN
TO SAVE ITS UN SEAT. CITES US DIPLOMATS IN PP AS
BELIEVING THAT PEACE OFFER WILL MAKE UN FIGHT EASIER
FOR GKR. MORE IMPORTANT, THEY BELIEVE, WILL BE
THE STABILITY THAT GKR IS ABLE TO SHOW AT TIME OF
UN VOTE. ACCORDINGLY, AMERICANS HAVE BEEN PRODDING
CAMBODIANS INTO MIL ACTIVITIES THAT, OVER LAST FEW
MONTHS, HAVE RESULTED IN SOME IMPROVEMENT IN
SITUATION. AMERICANS HAVE ALSO BEEN URGING POSITIVE
ECON ACTIVITY, ALTHOUGH IT HAS BEEN ONLY marginally
SUCCESSFUL IN COMBATING INFLATION AND RAMPANT WAR
PROFITEERING. MOREOVER, AMERICANS HAVE INCREASINGLY
BECOME THE SHADOW ADMIN OF GKR - SHAPING ITS PROGRAMS,
ORDERING ITS DECISIONS. THIS HAS BEEN PARTICULARLY
TRUE SINCE ADVENT OF DEAN, AN ACTIVIST AMB WHOSE
APPARENT GOAL IS TO PUSH GKR INTO BEST POSSIBLE
NEGOTIATING POSITION.

US AID IS RUNNING AT MORE THAN 600 MILLION DOLLARS
A YEAR IN KNOWN, REPORTED CATEGORIES. CONSENSUS
IS THAT IF THIS IS CUT BY HALF OR EVEN THIRD,
GKR WILL FALL.

INDONESIA

18. CSM'S SOUTHERLAND, IN JAKARTA, WRITES FIRST OF THREE
ARTICLES ON INDONESIA. REPORTS THAT JAN. RIOTS REVEALED
FLAWS IN INDONESIA'S ECON MIRACLES AND BROUGHT TO
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LIGHT RIVALRIES WITHIN ARMED FORCES LEADERSHIP.
SUHARTO HAS SINCE BECOME MORE GUARDED AND IS KEEPING
HIS OWN COUNSEL MORE THAN EVER BEFORE.

ALTHOUGH IT MAY HAVE LOOKED AT THE TIME AS THOUGH
RIOTS WERE LARGELY DIRECTED AGAINST JAPANESE "ECONOMIC
EXPLOITATION" IN INDONESIA, INFLATION, UNEMPLOYMENT,
AND CORRUPTION ALL HELPED CREATED WHAT ONE HIGH
OFFICIAL DESCRIBED AS "RISING SOCIAL TENSIONS." WHILE
SUHARTO APPEARS TO HAVE EMERGED IN STRONGER POSITION
SINCE RIOTS, THE CONSENSUS HE BUILT AFTER COMING TO
POWER LOOKS MORE FRAGILE THAN IT ONCE DID.

A MINORITY HAS GROWN WEALTHIER OVER PAST EIGHT

YEARS, WHILE VAST MAJORITY NOT MUCH BETTER OFF;
SOME EXPERTS ESTIMATE, IN FACT, THAT ABOUT HALF
THE INDONESIAN PEOPLE ARE WORSE OFF NOW THAN IN
1968.

STUDENT ACTIVISTS, PRESS CRITICS, AND WESTERN-
EDUCATED INTELLECTUALS WHO ARE NOW UNDER ARREST,
SUSPICION, OR SURVEILLANCE WERE ALL LOSERS IN
JANUARY AFFAIR. BUT THE JAPANESE WERE NOT AMONG
THE LOSERS. THEY MAINTAIN STRONG TIES WITH SOME
OF THE MOST POWERFUL GENERALS. AND DESPITE
PROTESTS AGANST THEIR BUSINESS INTERESTS, THEY HAVE
SECURED MORE APPROVALS FOR NEW INVESTMENT PROJECTS
THAN ANYONE ELSE IN RECENT MONTHS.

JAPAN

19. LAT'S KILGORE (AUG 25) SAYS WIDELY-PUBLICIZED FLOOD
OF JAPANESE INVESTMENT IN US IS APPARENTLY EBBING
AND CITES SOME OBSERVERS THAT THE PACE OF JAPANESE
PURCHASES IN US MAY HAVE BEEN BADLY OVERESTIMATED.
ALTHOUGH JAPANESE INVESTMENT IN US AND
CALIFORNIA HAS INCREASED DRAMATICALLY IN LAST TWO
YEARS, OIL CRISIS AND MOUNTING WORLDWIDE INFLATION
HAVE CHANGED PICTURE TO EXTENT THAT MOST LONG-RANGE
FORECASTS ARE CONSIDERED UNRELIABLE AND DOWNTURN IN
JAPANESE BUSINESS ACTIVITY IS REAL POSSIBILITY.
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KOREA

20. LAT'S JAMESON (AUG 24) IN SEOUL SEES CONTINUING THREAT
TO DISSENTERS EVEN THOUGH PARK REPEALED TWO OF
HARSH DECREES ENFORCING EIGHT-MONTH REIGN OF OPPRESSION.
NOTES THAT IN STATEMENT ISSUED BY HIS PRESS SECRETARY,
PARK SPOKE OF "CHALLENGES ARISING FROM BOTH INSIDE
AND OUTSIDE" THE COUNTRY, WARNED IT WOULD BE "GRAVE
MISTAKE" TO DROP SK'S GUARD AGAINST NK, EMPHASIZED
"URGENT NEED" OF "INTERNAL STABILITY," AND LINKED
THOSE WHO SPOKE OUT AGAINST HIM IN LAST EIGHT MONTHS
TO NK "SCHEMES" IN SK. UNDER SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES,
ROKG WAS OBLIGED TO TAKE EMERGENCY MEASURES TO CRUSH
THESE "CONSPIRACIES," PARK SAID. IN ADDITION TO
VEILED WARNINGS TO DISSENTERS, JAMESON OBSERVES, PARK
MADE ANOTHER POINT IN STATEMENT ISSUED FRIDAY WHICH
RAISED DOUBTS AS TO WHETHER HE WAS REALLY PREPARED TO
PERMIT OPERATING DEMOCRACY IN SK. PARK SPECIFICALLY
STATED THAT ALL THOSE WHO WERE JAILED OR WHO ARE STILL
BEING TRIED UNDER THE DECREES WOULD NOT BE AFFECTED
BY THEIR ABOLITION. NEARLY 200 CLERGYMEN, STUDENTS,
SCHOLARS, POLITICIANS, AND OTHER LEADERS THUS WOULD
REMAIN IN JAIL FOR ACTS WHICH ARE NO LONGER ILLEGAL;

NINE OF THEM FACE DEATH SENTENCES.

CHINA

21. ZORZA (WP) NOTES RECENT RED FLAG ARTICLES WHICH SUGGESTED THAT "RADICAL" OPPOSITION WAS CHALLENGING PEKING'S PRO-WESTERN POLICY AS PERSONIFIED BY CHOU AND THAT DEBATE WAS COMING TO A HEAD. CITES LATEST ARTICLE THAT "AN ECONOMICALLY INDEPENDENT COUNTRY CANNOT BE POLITICALLY INDEPENDENT." NOTES ALSO THAT ARTICLE DENOUNCED TREATIES WHICH "SURRENDERED NATIONAL RIGHTS AND BROUGHT HUMILIATION TO THE COUNTRY." ZORZA CONSIDERS THIS AN ALLUSION TO PEKING'S CONCESSION ON TAIWAN IN JOINT STATEMENT ISSUED DURING NIXON VISIT.

ZORZA VIEWS RED FLAG ARTICLE AS BEING ADDRESSED NOT ONLY BY ONE PEKING FACTION TO ANOTHER, BUT ALSO BY UNCLASSIFIED

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PEKING TO WASHINGTON; IT TELLS US THAT PEKING IS SO SUSPICIOUS OF US MOTIVES THAT IT MIGHT CALL OFF

DEAL WHICH IT BEGAN TO NEGOTIATE WITH NIXON - UNLESS WASHINGTON GIVES BETTER EVIDENCE OF GOOD FAITH.

ZORZA ARGUES THAT HAK CAN NO LONGER IGNORE LINKAGE BETWEEN PEKING'S DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN POLICY DEBATE, NOTING THAT CONTRARY TO EARLIER VIEW, ACADEMIC EXPERTS AND CIA NOW ACCEPT PEKING DEBATE AS BEING CONCERNED WITH MOST FUNDAMENTAL ISSUE OF NATIONAL POLICY - WHETHER CHINA SHOULD BE RAPIDLY MODERNIZED WITH FOREIGN HELP OR DRAG ITSELF UP BY OWN BOOTSTRAPS. THERE ARE DANGERS EITHER WAY: GRADUAL MODERNIZATION MIGHT PRESERVE PEASANT SOCIETY SO DEAR TO MAO'S HEART, BUT IT WOULD LEAVE CHINA TOO WEAK TO STAND UP TO PRESSURES OF TECHNOLOGICALLY ADVANCED WORLD; RAPID MODERNIZATION WOULD INEVITABLY LINK CHINA TO OUTSIDE WORLD AND MAKE HER DEPENDENT ON OTHER COUNTRIES.

CONCLUDES THAT WASHINGTON IS IN POSITION TO INFLUENCE COURSE OF PEKING DEBATE BY MAKING CLEAR ITS BENEVOLENT INTEREST IN OUTCOME - NOT BY WORDS BUT BY ACTIONS, POLITICAL AS MUCH AS ECONOMIC, WHICH WOULD HELP CHINA OVER THE HUMP.

AUSTRALIA

22. FROM SYDNEY, LAT'S LAMB (AUG 24) REPORTS AUSTRALIAN BIRTHRATE FOR 12 MONTHS ENDING JUNE 30 DOWN ONE-THIRD FROM PREVIOUS PERIOD; HOSPITAL REPORTS INDICATE BIRTHS THIS YEAR WILL BE LOWEST SINCE WWII. DEMOGRAPHISTS BELIEVE EXPENSE OF RAISING CHILDREN TO BE FACTOR.

COUNTRY RELIES ON IMMIGRANTS TO COMBAT ITS UNDER-POPULATION PROBLEM, BUT WITH UNEMPLOYMENT RISING AND ECONOMY TIGHTENING, NUMBER OF IMMIGRANTS ALLOWED THIS YEAR HAS BEEN CUT FROM 110,000 TO 80,000. ESTIMATES ARE THAT AUSTRALIA WILL HAVE POPULATION OF 21 MILLION BY YEAR 2,000 IF PRESENT 1.9 PERCENT GROWTH RATE CONTINUES. AUSSIE POPULATION PROBLEM INVOLVES DISTRIBUTION AS MUCH AS NUMBERS. WITH 75 PERCENT UNCLASSIFIED

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LIVING IN URBAN AREAS NEAR COAST, NATION'S INTERIOR REMAINS VIRTUALLY UNINHABITED AND CITIES ARE BECOMING INCREASINGLY CONGESTED. GOA ATTEMPTING TO DECENTRALIZE AND SET UP INLAND GROWTH AREAS.

GENERAL

23. CLAYTON FRITCHEY (WP) URGES USG TO RECONSIDER POLICY OF SUPPORTING RIGHT-WING MILITARY DICTATORSHIPS AROUND THE WORLD ON QUESTIONABLE ASSUMPTION THAT THEY ARE

VITAL TO US SECURITY. SAYS DISMAL END RESULT OF BLINDLY STICKING WITH GREEK COLONELS AND GENERALS IS ONLY ONE EXAMPLE OF HOW THIS SHORT-SIGHTED POLICY HAS MORE OFTEN BETRAYED US INTERESTS THAN ADVANCED THEM. SEES CONFIRMATION OF THIS IN SEA AND KOREA. OBSERVES THAT THE DEBACLE OF OUR POLICY IN GREECE COMES AT TIME WHEN CONGRESS IS SHOWING SIGNS OF TAKING NEW HARD LOOK AT MIL DICTATORSHIPS WE HAVE BEEN SUPPORTING FOR SO LONG IN SVN, SK, CAMBODIA AND TAIWAN. HOUSE SLASH OF AID TO VN WAS EYE-OPENER. SINCE END OF WWII, AMERICA'S COSTLY INTERVENTIONS IN ASIA ON BEHALF OF ANTI-DEMOCRATIC RIGHT-WING GOVTS HAVE GENERALLY BEEN UNDERTAKEN IN NAME OF SAVING PEOPLE FROM ANTI-DEMOCRATIC LEFT-WING GOVTS, ALTHOUGH THE PEOPLE CAN'T SEEM TO TELL THE DIFFERENCE. FRITCHEY SEES AS BEST HOPE FOR FUTURE THE ACCESSION OF NEW PRES. WHO SUPPORTS DETENTE WITH PRC AND USSR, BUT WHO IS NOT SADDLED WITH OLD PERSONAL COMMITMENTS TO SUCH ASIAN GENERALS AS THIEU, PARK AND CKS. KISSINGER

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To: SAIGON INFO ALL EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS
BIEN HOA
CAN THO
DANANG
HONG KONG
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JEC PARIS

TREASURY
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Type: TE

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